

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA ) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND )

In the Matter of: )  
COMPLAINT C2011-089 )

William M. McKown, )  
Respondent, )

Billy Rigby, )  
Complainant. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**DECISION AND ORDER**

STATE ETHICS  
COMMISSION

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This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission by virtue of a complaint filed by the Complainant, Billy Rigby, on June 20, 2011. On July 20, 2011, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §8-13-320(10)(i)(Supp. 2010), the State Ethics Commission reviewed for probable cause the above-captioned complaint charging Respondent, William M. McKown, with a violation of Section 8-13-700(A).

Present at the meeting were Commission Members E. Kay Biermann-Brohl, Vice Chair, Edward E. Duryea, Richard H. Fitzgerald, JB Holeman, Jonathan H. Burnett, Priscilla L. Tanner, and G. Carlton Manley. Also present were the Commission's Executive Director, Herbert R. Hayden, Jr., and his immediate staff.

The following allegation was considered:

On June 20, 2011 the State Ethics Commission received a complaint filed by Billy Rigby of Pawleys Island against the Respondent, William M. McKown, former member of the South Carolina Aeronautics Commission. The complaint alleged that Respondent falsified his actual legal address in order to be eligible to serve on the Aeronautics Commission.

### **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

Having carefully reviewed the evidence presented, the Commission finds as fact:

1. At the time of the alleged violation the Respondent, William M. McKown, was a candidate for commissioner on the SC Aeronautics Commission.
2. Reve Richardson, Executive Assistant of the Aeronautics Commission, advised that the address provided to the Commission by Respondent upon being appointed was 116 N. Dogwood Drive, Surfside Beach.
3. Respondent advised that when he was asked to serve on the Aeronautics Commission the county of his residence never became an issue. He stated that he never claimed to be a Georgetown County resident. The address he provided to the Aeronautics Commission and the Secretary of State was 116 N. Dogwood Drive, Surfside Beach in Horry County.
4. Records of the Secretary of State confirm the Dogwood Drive address.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Commission concludes, as a matter of law:

1. The Respondent, William M. McKown, was a public member as defined by Section 8-13-100(26).
2. The State Ethics Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
3. Section 8-13-700(A) prohibits a public official from using his official office to obtain an economic interest for himself.


### **DECISION**

Based upon the evidence presented, the State Ethics Commission has determined

that there is not probable cause to indicate that the Respondent, William M. McKown, violated Section 8-13-700(A). The Commission has therefore dismissed the charges in accordance with Section 8-13-320(10)(i) and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF August, 2011.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



E. KAY BIERMANN BROHL  
VICE CHAIR

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA